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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

**NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER**Protection of Classified National Security Information

Unauthorized disclosures of national security and policy-deliberative information are a problem of epidemic proportion within the US Government. The Constitution of the United States provides for protection of individual rights and liberties, including freedom of speech, but it also requires that Government functions be discharged efficiently and effectively, especially where the national security is involved. As President of the United States, I am responsible for honoring both of these Constitutional requirements, and I intend to do so in a balanced and careful manner. That balance, unfortunately, has not been struck in recent years, and the resulting imbalance caused by unauthorized disclosures has hampered the proper functioning of Government.

To this end, I direct that the policies below be established and implemented. I realize that these measures, limited though they are, will cause controversy. I urge, however, that all concerned -- government employees, the media, and the American people at large -- recognize that these measures are clearly necessary and that the end result will be a more effective government.

Contacts with the Media

All contacts with any element of the media in which National Security matters are discussed will require the advance approval of a senior official at the level of an Assistant Secretary or higher. A memorandum of conversation will be prepared as soon as possible after the contact, recording the subjects discussed and all information provided to the media representatives.

Access

The unauthorized disclosure of National Security Council information, documents and deliberations requires further controls to limit access and an accurate accounting of those who have had access. I therefore direct my Assistant

NSC review completed.

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for National Security Affairs to develop and implement procedures that will keep the number of officials with access to documents relating to NSC matters to the minimum essential to the orderly conduct of the government's business; that will require personal accountability for all such officials by signature; and that will minimize and strictly control the reproduction of documents.

Investigations

The government's lack of success in identifying the sources of unauthorized disclosure of National Security Council information, documents and deliberations and taking appropriate disciplinary measures must be remedied. Henceforth, government employees who have had access to information relating to NSC matters, as identified by signature, in the event of the unauthorized disclosure of information in those documents or the deliberations relating thereto, will be subject to investigation, to include if necessary a polygraph interview.

Applicability and Implementation

The provision of this directive shall apply to all employees of, and elements within agencies participating in the NSC, to include the Executive Office of the President. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs shall be responsible for implementation of these policies. These policies shall be effective immediately.

The members of the NSC shall adopt departmental measures to insure comparable protection for national security information under departmental purview. The heads of such departments and agencies shall report to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs within thirty days actions taken to implement this directive.

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